civilized Europe as Bremen, the Pyrenees, Southern Italy and Byzantium. 6

173 Legendary references to this period abound among the Magyars. According to folk tales and chronicles, two sons of the giant Menrot, Hunor and Magor, moved to a new hunting ground in the swamps of Meotis, guided in their wanderings by a wondrous roe (csodaszarvas). Arriving at Meotis, they abducted the women of the family of King Dula, the Alan ruler. The offspring of Magor and Hunor became known, respectively, as Magyars and as Huns--a relationship which Hungarians have always been proud of. The leader of the tribal alliance of the Magyars at the time of the settlement (honfoglalás) was Árpád, founder of the House known by his name. He, in turn, is said to have descended from a huge eagle-like bird, the turul--just one example of the shamanistic totemism of the Magyar ancestors. Árpád himself is referred to by the Hungarians today as the founding father of the country, Árpád apánk, 'our father Árpád.'

175 797 At the turn of the millennium, chief Géza's son, István, educated in Christian beliefs, became the first king of the country. He was crowned in 1001 with a crown he had received from Pope Sylvester II. This "Holy Crown" is still considered the symbol of Magyar sovereignty. The complete conversion of the Magyars took several decades, but the open resistance of certain pagan clan chiefs was energetically suppressed by

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between the opening line and the poem itself:

Derül-borul a Dunárul,
Jön a rózsám a tanyárul.

From yonder the Danube, the sky is bright then dark again,
My sweetheart is coming from the farm.

Other opening lines simply furnish alliterations or unusual rhymes:

Huszonkettő, huszonhárom, huszonnégy,
Mondd meg neked, barna kislány, hová mégy.

Twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four,
Tell me, brunette, where are you going?

The Magyar legends can be grouped into the following cycles:

Origins and Hun Ancestorship

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The Origins of the Magyars (Hunor és Magor)

God's Sword (Isten kardja)

Attila's Grave

Historic Legends

The Settlement of the country ('The White Horse' Fehér Ló)

Raids on Western Europe (Botond, Lehel kürtje)

Saint Ladislas

Mongolic Invasion

Toldi (imaginary hero, created under strong influence the chansons de geste)

The Hunyady Family (Mátyás király)

Professor Hatvani (the Hungarian dr. Faustus)